

Remarks:

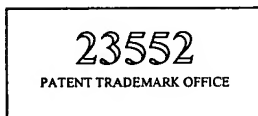
This amendment is responsive to the office action mailed on April 28, 2004 setting a three month shortened statutory period for response expiring on July 28, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, and 11 stand rejected. Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 12 are objected to. Claims 13-18 stand allowed. Allowance of these claims is appreciated.

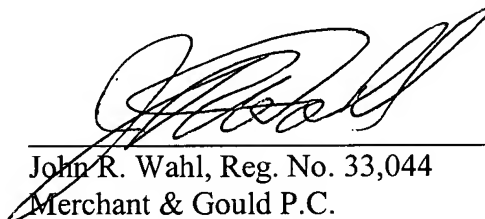
Claims 1, 2, 5-12 are canceled by the above amendment. Claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations in intervening claims. These claims are therefore believed to be allowable.

Claims 3, 4, 13-18 remain pending in the application. These claims are believed to be fully allowable. Therefore this application is believed to now be fully in condition for allowance. Such action is therefore requested. This amendment is believed to be responsive to all points in the office action. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

7/18/04
Date




John R. Wahl, Reg. No. 33,044
Merchant & Gould P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(303) 357-1644
(303) 357-1671 (fax)